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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 29, 2002**

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# **TUBA CITY TEEN SENTENCED TO 33 YEARS IN PRISON FOR MURDER**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced today that Al'Shonnie Hatathlie, 19, of Tuba City, Az. was sentenced to 33 years in prison, by United States District Judge Earl H. Carroll, in Phoenix, Arizona. The earliest that the defendant can be considered for release from prison is after he has served 85% of his sentence. He then will be placed on 5 years of supervised release under the direction of the United States Probation Department.

HATATHLIE had entered a plea of guilty on November 15, 2001 to Count 1 Murder, Second Degree and Count 2, Use of a Firearm During to Commit the Murder.

On or between March 18-25, 2000, the defendant, a member of the Navajo Nation, was with the victim in Tuba City, Arizona. On the night of the murder he was drinking with the victim, Charleston Jasper, also a tribal member, and arguing over trivial things.

Hatathlie and Jasper eventually ended up at Hatathlie's Tuba City home. At some point a friend of Hatathlie's arrived. Hatathlie asked the friend if he would drive Hatathlie and the victim up to North Tuba City to drink some more beer. Hatathlie and Jasper left with the friend in the friend's truck. Before leaving the house, Hatathlie hid a black .22 caliber rifle inside of his dark blue, over sized jacket. Hatathlie later put the gun in the bed of the pickup truck without the friend or Jasper seeing him.

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They drove out north of Tuba City past the water tanks, for approximately 2-3 miles. Hatathlie told the friend to pull over. Hatathlie quickly exited the vehicle, went to the bed of the truck and retrieved his rifle. Jasper also got out of the truck. Hatathlie fired 2-3 shots to the front of Jasper's body. Jasper started to walk away and appeared to be staggering. Hatathlie got back in the truck, reloaded the rifle, and instructed the friend to drive forward in order to follow Jasper. Hatathlie saw Jasper lying face down. Hatathlie exited the vehicle, walked up to Jasper and fired 3 more shots to the back of Jasper's head, killing him. Hatathlie then dragged Jasper's body for about 20 yards over a small hill, and took 4 dime bags of marijuana from Jasper's pocket.

The next morning, the defendant was at his house and a couple of juveniles arrived. Hatathlie told them that he shot Jasper and that he needed their help because the body was still laying out in the North Tuba City area. They all drove to the location of the body and moved it further out into the desert. They buried Jasper in a shallow grave where he laid undiscovered until October of 2000.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the FBI and the Navajo Department of Criminal Investigations.

The prosecution was handled by Vincent Q. Kirby, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

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